

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 8 being independent. Claims 7 and 14 have been cancelled and Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, and 11-13 have been amended.

The title has been objected to on formal grounds. Applicants have amended the title as requested by the Examiner. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title are requested.

The drawings have been objected to on formal grounds. Concurrently herewith, Applicants are submitting replacement drawings of Figures 6-8 to include the label --PRIOR ART--, as requested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0167626 (Matsuda et al.). Claims 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsuda et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a display device including a driving device for driving a liquid crystal, a first member and a second member disposed in opposition to each other with the liquid crystal interposed therebetween, wherein the first member has a rectangular display area, the second member

has a display corresponding area corresponding to the rectangular display area and a non-display corresponding area which is different from the display corresponding area and in which the driving device is provided, and the display corresponding area and the non-display corresponding area are juxtaposed with respect to a direction orthogonal to a longitudinal direction of the display area, a point-like light source provided within the non-display corresponding area and a guide member for guiding light from the light source. The light source is provided not beyond a width of the first member and at an end of the display area, with respect to the longitudinal direction of the display area.

As is recited in independent Claim 8, the present invention relates to an image forming apparatus. The apparatus includes an image forming device and a display device. The image forming device forms an image on a recording material. The display device displays information related to the image forming device. The display device includes a driving device for driving a liquid crystal, a first member and a second member disposed in opposition to each other with the liquid crystal interposed therebetween, wherein the first member has a rectangular display area, the second member has a display corresponding area corresponding to the rectangular display area and a non-display corresponding area which is different from the display corresponding area and in which the driving device is provided, and the display corresponding area and the non-display corresponding area are juxtaposed with respect to a direction orthogonal to a longitudinal direction of the display area, a point-like light source provided within the non-display corresponding area and a guide member for guiding light from the light source. The light source is provided not beyond a width of the first member and at an end of the display area, with respect to the longitudinal direction of the display area.

With the above arrangements, the device can be downsized by decreasing the width of the longitudinal direction of the display area for the device, which uses a point-like light source. The point-like light source can be provided at an end of the display area. This can allow the angle of light spread from the point-like light source to be relatively narrowed. For this reason, unevenness in light intensity at both sides of the light source can be kept to a minimum.

Matsuda et al. relates to a liquid crystal display device including two substrates 101, 102 sandwiching a liquid crystal layer 110, a light guide 9 and a lamp 16.

Unlike the present invention, Matsuda et al. does not disclose or suggest a point-like light source, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 8, but rather a fluorescent lamp. Matsuda et al. also fails to disclose or suggest that the point-like light source is provided not beyond a width of the first member and at an end of the display area, with respect to the longitudinal direction of the display area, as is also recited in independent Claims 1 and 8.

Therefore, Matsuda et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 8. Dependent Claims 2-6 and 9-13 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MAW\JMC\gmc\tnt

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